

Mrs. King was also instrumental in the establishment of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Holiday. After personally leading an enormous education campaign and seeking an Act of Congress, Mrs. King oversaw the first national observance of the holiday to honor her husband in 1986. In 1974, she formed the Full Employment Action Council, a coalition of over 100 organizations dedicated to full employment and equal economic opportunity. In 1983 Mrs. King gathered over 800 human rights organizations on the 20th Anniversary of the historic March on Washington in the Coalition of Conscience. While protesting apartheid in 1985, Mrs. King and three of her children were arrested outside the South African embassy in Washington, DC. Nearly a decade later, she stood in Johannesburg as Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the new President of South Africa.

Throughout her life, Coretta Scott King remained a devoted promoter of positive social change. Despite grief and constant sacrifice, she continued to lend her voice to issues of social justice, human equality, and democratic progress. Mrs. King advocated for a more open-minded global community.

The world is better because of Coretta Scott King. She affected countless lives and her voice will be deeply missed, especially by those who carry on her incredible undertaking.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and accomplishments of an extraordinary woman—my friend—Mrs. Coretta Scott King.

I was surprised and deeply saddened to learn of Mrs. King's passing yesterday morning. Mrs. King and I were friends and confidants for many years. She was an incredible woman—graceful and dignified—who showed strength in the face of indignation and tragedy.

Coretta Scott King was a committed activist in the civil rights movement even before she met Dr. King. After they married, she was with him every step of the way—supporting him and promoting the philosophy of nonviolence. Following Dr. King's assassination, she continued his legacy promoting social and economic justice for all. Mrs. King was determined to make his dream a reality. She did all this while remaining committed to her family and raising her children.

Mrs. King made it her mission to spread the message of peace. She was not just an American, but a citizen of the world. As human beings, we are blessed to have known her compassion and dedication.

It has been said that the ultimate measure of a person's life is the extent to which they made the world a better place. Coretta Scott King's work has forever shaped the way we treat each other as human beings. Her passing marks the end of an era. It is up to all of us to honor her dedication and continue the struggle for equality.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Black History month, it saddens me that our nation has lost one of our foremost civil rights activists—Coretta Scott King.

Though best known as the wife of the great Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta had a distinguished career herself. She was an activist not only for racial equality but for economic justice, women's and children's rights, gay and lesbian dignity, religious freedom, the needs of the poor and homeless, health care, educational opportunities, nuclear disarmament and ecological sanity. She was also a power-

ful voice in bringing an end to the scourge of apartheid in South Africa.

During the civil rights movement, she was at the forefront of the movement alongside her husband. Coretta was a music student and she brought her talent to the civil rights movement by performing in "Freedom Concerts," singing and reading poetry to raise money for the cause. Planning marches and sit-ins, she never relented even after her family members were targets of beatings and stabbings. She never relented, even after the jailing of her husband. She never relented, even after their family home was bombed.

Long after Martin's assassination, Coretta continued her work and concentrated her energies on fulfilling her husband's work by building The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change as a living memorial to her husband's life and dream.

I had the pleasure of meeting her. For me, meeting her was meeting an icon. The civil rights movement began when I was about 8 or 9. Years later, to meet her in person was awe inspiring. It was, frankly, astonishing. Coretta Scott King was not a witness to history, she was an active participant and a leader in making history. Speaking to her one on one was a humbling experience and one that I will never forget.

Coretta Scott King will be sorely missed by people not only in the United States but those throughout the world who looked to her as a strong woman and a leader in the non-violent resistance movement.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the courageous Coretta Scott King.

Mrs. King first came to the public eye as the wife of the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr. Aside from being Mr. King's wife, Coretta Scott King became an international symbol for the civil rights movement and a prominent advocate of the women's rights movement. As a civil rights leader, Mrs. King's vision of racial peace and nonviolent social change was a fortifying staple in advancing the civil rights movement.

Following her husband's untimely death, Mrs. King fought strongly to continue battling the struggle against social injustice. Mrs. King went on to found the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Non-Violent Social Change in Atlanta, GA, and led a valiant effort for a national holiday in honor of her late husband. Both actions are a strong indicator of Mrs. King's dedication to scholarship and activism.

Through her continued efforts, Mrs. King came to be seen as an inspirational figure. Her enormous spirit and strong moral values came to personify not only the ideals Dr. King fought for, but also personified a movement that transformed our Nation.

I would like to extend my thanks to Mrs. King for all the wonderful contributions she made throughout her life. I also would like to extend my prayers and condolences to her family, who will undoubtedly continue to fight for what Mrs. King stood for.

It is an honor to stand and praise all the hard work this beloved figure has done to better our Nation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the passing Monday night of Coretta Scott King, filled me with sadness, an emptiness, and a determination to see her work through to the end. She was a courageous, heroic, and beautiful individual who sacrificed her life

so Americans might relish in the gift of equal justice. Coretta Scott King and her late husband, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., were Americans of monumental strength and stature through their lives. In times of struggle, frustration, injustice, and violence, they spoke of composure, grace, love, and equality.

They will be remembered for their tireless and ceaseless efforts to advance race relations, civil rights, social justice and human rights.

I would like to share a few quotes with you. These are moments in which the voice, character, and spiritual tenacity of Mrs. King was captured. When a heroine passes away, we look to her words, and our memories, to convey the spirit and tenacity she carried with her, brought into every room, and left imprinted on our souls.

Coretta Scott King once said, "Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated." Whether segregation, sexual orientation, the rights of the poor or the rights of women, Mrs. King spoke with a voice that resonates beyond the limits of radiowaves and printed pages and out to who are desperately in need of help.

I have known Coretta Scott King over the last several years, and she had a rare gift to motivate others to carry on the legacy of equality, the idea of freedom, and social justice which was first accomplished by her husband and partner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It is our duty in her honor to never waver in the face of injustice and degradation.

"Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won; you earn it and win it in every generation." These words of Coretta Scott King are increasingly relevant.

As a member of the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees, my thoughts can't help but turn to yesterday's confirmation of Justice Alito to the U.S. Supreme Court. I have had concerns about Justice Alito's past judicial record. I am still apprehensive, and I would like to take this opportunity to point out what I believe is a test of civil liberties presented today.

The tragic passing of Coretta Scott King, a formidable human rights and civil liberties activist, and the concurrent confirmation of Justice Alito, may foreshadow difficult times ahead for American freedoms. Much of what Coretta Scott King fought for is now threatened by Justice Alito's confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court. His dubious record on voter's rights, discrimination issues, civil rights, civil liberties, reproductive freedom, the right to privacy and environmental protections, among others, fly in the face of the life and work of Coretta Scott King. The passing of Coretta Scott King and the confirmation of Justice Alito should be a wake-up call to America.

Dr. and Mrs. King will forever hold an esteemed place in my heart and the hearts of all Americans. As an African-American woman, and a Member of Congress, I shall endeavor in my own way to continue their fight for equality and justice every day.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Coretta Scott King. She was the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and an important figure in the civil rights movement in her own right. She passed away Monday night in California.

Coretta Scott King was born in Marion, AL, on April 27, 1927. She attended Antioch College in Ohio and earned a B.A. in music and